



May 21, 2019

The Honorable Henry Stern  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AJR 8 (Quirk): Invasive species: Federal Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003  
**SUPPORT**

**Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee**

Dear Senator Stern:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), we are pleased to relay our support for Assembly Member Quirk's AJR 8 related to nutria eradication.

California has policies and programs in place to eradicate or minimize problems and risks associated with the presence of non-native invasive species. A native of South America, nutria have proven to be a formidable and difficult species to successfully eradicate. One of the most common characteristics that complicate control efforts of nutria is the quick and rapid increase in population within a relatively short window of time. In addition, nutria consume large amounts of vegetation and often dig in soil near water for food. As a result, the safety of levees within the Delta is an inevitable concern that can result in irreversible habitat, agricultural, and water supply impacts with significant statewide ramifications.

Assembly Member Quirk's AJR 8 is a welcomed and meaningful request to the U.S. Congress to include California as part of the Control Act and requests an appropriation of \$4 million from federal funds to assist in the state's eradication program. These are significant and fundamental steps as all of California works to address nutria infestation.

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For these reasons, Metropolitan and CSDA support Assembly Member Quirk's AJR 8. If you should have any questions or concerns related to either of our positions, please feel free to contact Kathy Viatella at (916) 650-2614 or by email at [kviatella@mwdh2o.com](mailto:kviatella@mwdh2o.com), or Rylan Gervase at (877) 924-2732 or by email at [rylang@csda.net](mailto:rylang@csda.net).

Sincerely,



Kathy Viatella  
Executive Legislative Representative



Rylan Gervase  
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Assembly Member Bill Quirk  
Sydney Chamberlin, Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus